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RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS BULLETIN



School of
Social Policy,
Social Work
and Social
Justice



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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

Dear readers,

This academic year we celebrate our 10 years anniversary as a three subject school. The merger of the former School of Applied Science and the School of Social Justice strengthened our teaching and research portfolio and facilitated that we are addressing social inequality in research and policy impact more comprehensively. On 13th November 2025 the school will celebrate it's 10th anniversary with academic debates, policy exchange and music. We will announce more details soon, but in the meantime please check our website for news:

<https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/research/researchnewsandevents/>.

This Research Bulletin features again several highlights such as two published books (p. 23), policy engagements with Oireachtas members (p. 7) and our upcoming seminars (p. 13). I would like to thank **Dr. Marie Moran** for leading the Equality Studies Centre for six years and wish her successor Judy Walsh the same success as she takes over as the director (p. 19).

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Stephan Köppe'.

STEPHAN KÖPPE

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

NEW APPOINTMENT



Dr. Anastasia Ershova joins social policy

Dr. Anastasia Ershova joins the social policy subject as an Ad Astra fellow and Assistant Professor.

She has held positions at the Queen's University, Belfast and University of Konstanz and will strengthen the UCD Master of Public Policy programme.

Anastasia's research broadly focuses on three interconnected areas: policy responsiveness to public opinion across different institutional contexts, delegation dynamics between the EU and member states, and the complex relationship between policymaking effectiveness, efficiency, and politicization processes.

Anastasia's work combines quantitative and qualitative methodologies to examine how democratic institutions respond to citizen preferences and how delegation mechanisms shape policy outcomes. Her research has contributed to understanding the evolving nature of European governance, particularly regarding how institutional design affects both policy effectiveness and democratic accountability.

UCD Profile:

<https://people.ucd.ie/anastasia.ershova>

To contact: anastasia.ershova@ucd.ie

NEW GRADUATE



Congratulations to Dr. Phil Butler, PhD Graduate of the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, on the conferring of her Doctor of Philosophy Degree on Friday 5th September, 2025. Phil's thesis was entitled: 'Embracing the Misfit'- Supporting and Empowering Mothers with Acquired Brain Injury: A Feminist Participatory Action Research Study.

Phil was co-supervised by **Associate Professor Sarah Donnelly** and **Assistant Professor Sarah Morton**.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Judy Walsh addresses the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children and Equality

Judy Walsh was invited to address the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children and Equality when it met to consider anti-discrimination law reform proposals on 17 July 2025. Over two sessions, the Committee undertook pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024. Judy's submission welcomed some proposed changes, such as the transfer of discrimination cases against licensed premises from the District Court to the Workplace Relations Commission. However, she underscored that the General Scheme would modify the law but not upgrade it to tackle systemic and institutionalised forms of discrimination. She also argued that the proposals should be considered in tandem with transposition of EU directives on equality bodies, which will require reform of Ireland's equality infrastructure over the coming months.

The proceedings can be viewed here:

https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/joint_committee_on_children_and_equality/2025-07-17/

HSE Self-Neglect Tender Award

Dr. Sarah Donnelly, Associate Professor of Social Work, UCD has been awarded €49,298 from the Office of the Chief Social Worker, the Health Service Executive, to investigate the issue of Self-Neglect. Self-neglect and hoarding are behaviours that are hard to define, measure and address. Policymakers, researchers, practitioners and other community service providers have long identified self-neglect as a public health issue, and self-neglect remains a concern because of high prevalence, and because outcomes are potentially severe.

Aims and Objectives of the Project

This project sets out to examine the existing literature and evidence base and it will augment this with new empirical Irish-specific research. The project will:

- Identify and critically analyse current definitions in the existing literature -including what is meant by extreme self-neglect
- Explore and highlight the collaborative challenges when engaging in cases of self-neglect
- Map the current care pathways and operational infrastructure for self-neglect cases in Ireland in order to identify barriers and facilitators to best practice
- Identify any good practices and interdisciplinary strengths while also exploring constraints and impediments to good practice
- Examine the human and organisational factors that contribute to successful outcomes from the existing evidence base as well as gathering new data by carrying out empirical research.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Celebrating 20,000 views



Dr. Tam Cane (University of Sussex) and **Dr. Prospera Tedam, UCD Prof. of Racial Justice and Social Work**, are absolutely delighted and deeply proud that their article [“We didn’t learn enough about racism and anti-racist practice: newly qualified social workers’ challenge in wrestling racism”](https://doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2022.2063271) has now surpassed 20,000 views in 2 years. This milestone is both humbling and energising, reminding us of the importance of engaging with the complex, and often uncomfortable, realities of racism in social work education and practice. Scholarship in areas such as anti-racism can sometimes struggle to garner attention, not because the issues are marginal, but because they challenge entrenched systems and ask difficult questions about privilege, institutional culture, and professional responsibility. Reaching such a wide readership signals that there is appetite and urgency for these conversations, and that the voices of newly qualified social workers who are often left grappling with the inadequacies of their training in this area resonate far beyond academia. This level of engagement reinforces our commitment to continuing to research, write, and teach about anti-racist practice, ensuring that social work education does not shy away from equipping practitioners with the tools, frameworks, and confidence they need to challenge racism. We are grateful to every reader who has contributed to this momentum for change.

Cane, T. C., & Tedam, P. (2022). ‘We didn’t learn enough about racism and anti-racist practice’: newly qualified social workers’ challenge in wrestling racism. *Social Work Education*, 42(8), 1563–1585.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2022.2063271>

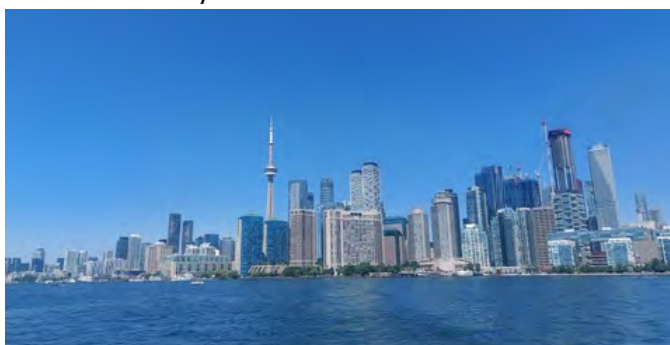
ABSTRACT

Since the murder of George Floyd, there has been an increase in discussions around racism and anti-racist practice in social work. There have been questions about how pre-qualifying training prepares newly qualified social workers for working with racialised groups and dealing with racism in practice. This paper reports on a qualitative study with sixty-seven newly qualified social workers on the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment programme (a twelve-month employment-based course providing extra support and enhancing skills and knowledge for newly qualified social workers employed in England) within two years of completing a social work degree. Our analysis identified challenges in dealing with racism, experiences of racism and the lack of guidance on dealing with racism, witnessed and/or experienced. There is a need for organisations, and educators to develop a greater sense of racial consciousness to successfully drive anti-racism in social work. A framework that supports newly qualified social workers with processes to help challenge and address incidences of racism should encourage social workers to wrestle with race.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Joe Mooney's Research Visit to the University of Toronto, Canada

Dr. Joe Mooney has returned from a two-month trip to Canada as part of his research sabbatical. He wishes to extend a huge thanks to Ramona Alaggia and the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto for hosting him at their faculty on Bloor Street.



For Joe it was a busy, productive, and inspiring trip. The book he is developing, *Disclosure of Childhood Sexual Abuse: A Social Model* is almost complete and is due to be published in Autumn 2026 (Policy Press). Joe was fortunate to learn from some amazing community services and agencies in Toronto and beyond. On this, he is particularly grateful to Brian Bratt at The Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara, Arthur Lockhart and Maria Barcelos at the Gate House Toronto, and Audrey Rastin at Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre, Toronto for their time and hospitality.

Joe also provided a presentation on the Biographical Narrative Interviewing Methodology to the PhD student cohort at Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work as part of his Visiting Professorship alongside networking with faculty and staff.

Joe is looking forward to maintaining these connections and has since been invited to become a member of the UCD Dobbin Centre for Canadian Studies which will commence their initial meetings in the coming months.

Dr. Matt Donoghue and Orla Dingley awarded NESC project to Examine the Concept and Use of Just Resilience in Ireland and Internationally

Dr. Matt Donoghue, Asst. Prof. in Social Policy and Orla Dingley, SFI funded PhD student have been awarded NESC funding to examine how the concept of just resilience is conceptualised and used internationally and in Ireland, with the aim of identifying reflections for enhancing its future use in policy and practice in Ireland.

Running from September to November 2025, the project will comprise a literature review paper focusing on the following four areas: Concepts of just resilience internationally; Current use of just resilience framing or concept in Ireland; Identifying vulnerable groups; and Putting just resilience into practice.

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

UCD Ageing Network Launch Event, 25th June 2025



On 25 June 2025, the UCD Ageing Network supported by the Geary Institute for Public Policy was officially launched with an event attended by many distinguished guests. The vision of the UCD Ageing Network is to contribute to an age-attuned world and to prepare for the economic and social shifts associated with population ageing in Irish Society and globally.

Network Coordinator **Assoc. Prof. Sarah Donnelly**, from UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, delivered the opening remarks, joined by **Professor Michelle Norris**, Director of the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, who warmly welcomed all attendees. The event brought together researchers, educators, professionals, academic partners, civil society actors, and third-sector organisations representing older people. Our key presentations included **Dr. Nat O'Connor**, who gave a talk on responding to ageing populations, followed by presentations from Dr. Carmel Davies and Assoc. Prof. Sarah Donnelly on the importance of Patient and Public Involvement in ageing research.

Other members of the UCD Ageing Network also shared their current projects and research, showcasing the range and diversity of expertise across the university. The launch was attended by representatives from the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament, Active Retirement Ireland, ALONE, the Patient Advocacy Service, Age Action Ireland, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Care Alliance Ireland, and Care Champions. Their attendance highlighted the network's collaborative and inclusive vision.

Special gratitude was extended to Dr Maria Pierce and **Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate**, whose commitment was crucial in establishing the network.

You can follow our progress through the UCD Ageing Network LinkedIn at <https://lnkd.in/e4skj2ez>, the UCD website: <https://www.ucd.ie/geary/research/ageingnetwork/>.

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health, July 9th 2025

On the 9th July, **Associate Professor Sarah Donnelly** was part of the Irish Association of Social Workers' delegation who presented to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health's hearing on Adult Safeguarding policy and legislation, along with Caroline Strong, Chief Operations Officer and Liam Keogh, Principal Social Worker. The presentation set out to impress on Government the urgent need for progression of mandatory reporting in certain circumstances, primary adult safeguarding legislation, an Independent Safeguarding Authority, regulation of Independent Advocacy services, the need to strengthen the National Independent Review Panel (NIRP), the need for a legislative underpinning to interagency cooperation and the need for wider social care reform to support preventative safeguarding work and wider sectoral reform. You can watch back to the proceedings here: <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/oireachtas-tv/video-archive/committees/10470>



L to R: Dr. Sarah Donnelly, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Caroline Strong, Chief Operations Officer of the IASW and Liam Keogh, Principal Social Worker

Seminar at the Centre for Studies in Population and Development, Christ University, India (11th August 2025)

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate delivered a lecture as part of the Webinar Series of the Centre for Studies in Population and Development, Department of Economics (Bangalore Central Campus) Christ (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru on the 11th August, 2025, on the ethical use of welfare technology for building caring communities through a systems thinking approach. He addressed how ageing populations, staff shortages, and financial constraints challenge healthcare and eldercare systems, emphasizing the need for sustainable solutions over the next two to three decades.

Technology, particularly robotics, can ease these pressures when guided by ethical principles and real user needs rather than market trends. Dr. Kodate highlighted the importance of integrating technology seamlessly into existing patient pathways so that service delivery remains smooth. Robots, he noted, are best suited for repetitive or physically demanding tasks, enabling caregivers to focus on emotional and relational care, but should never replace human contact.

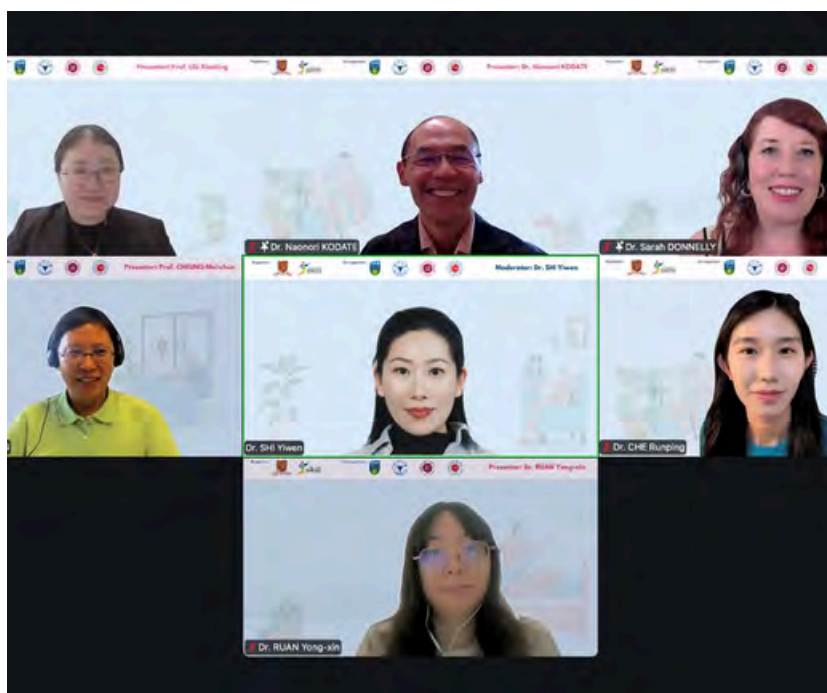
Supplementing the repetitive or physically demanding tasks, robots can be used as “patient’s pathways” to complement the healthcare workers. Drawing on examples from Japan, Finland, and Ireland, he explained that cultural and policy contexts shape technology adoption, making direct replication across countries ineffective.

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS



He stressed that welfare technology should support human interaction, not diminish it, and that policies must safeguard this as a fundamental right. Dr. Kodate argued for a balanced approach where innovation, ethics, cultural sensitivity, and compassion work together to create sustainable, human-centred care systems. Dr Kodate joined the Centre, as Research Associate, in July 2025, and this lecture was given as part of his inaugural talk (excerpt from an entry by the Centre for Studies in Population and Development, Department of Economics (Bangalore Central Campus) Christ University LinkedIn).

Chinese University of Hong Kong (Department of Social Work) – UCD (School of Social Policy Social Work and Social Justice) Research Collaboration Webinar (5 September 2025)



Assoc. Profs. Sarah Donnelly and **Naonori Kodate** spoke at the International Research Collaboration Webinar “Rethinking Long-term Care for Older Adults: Ethics, Culture, and Innovation” organised by the Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (5 September). Other speakers included: Prof. Liu Xiaoting, Professor and Director, Center of Ageing & Health Studies, School of Public Affairs, Zhejiang University, China, Prof. Cheung Mei-chun, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, HKSAR, Dr. Ruan Yong-xin, Assistant Professor, School of Government, Shenzhen University, China, and Dr. Che Run-ping, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, HKSAR.

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

Dublin Festival of Books 2025

Women, Struggle and Resilience, Nov 6, 2025, 6.45pm, Royal Irish Academy. Leanne Calvert, Susan Marie Martin, and Caroline West in conversation with **Mary McAuliffe**.

The discussion centered on tracing the treatment of women in Ireland across three centuries, uncovering stories of struggle and resilience from the 1700s to today. Leanne Calvert's *Pious and Promiscuous* (Royal Irish Academy) offered an intimate glimpse of life in 18th century Presbyterian Ulster. Susan Marie Martin's *Dublin's women street traders, 1882 – 1932* (Four Courts Press) explored challenges faced, and actions taken. Caroline West's *Wrong Women* (Eriu) was a feminist history of the Monto, Europe's largest red-light district from the 19th into the 20th century. All three authors engaged in a lively discussion with historian Dr. Mary McAuliffe.

<https://dublinbookfestival.com/event/women-struggle-and-resilience/>

SCHOOL 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR SERIES, 2025-6

Opening the School Seminar Series for the Academic Year 2025/26 - Professor Allison Phipp's Lecture on Decolonising Sexual Violence



Professor Alisson Phipps gave a talk on “The Coloniality of Sexual Violence” on 10 September, opening the School’s Seminar Series for the ongoing academic year. Alison Phipps is a Professor of Political Sociology and Head of Social Sciences, Politics, IR and Religion (SPIRe) at York St John University. She is also Honorary Professor in the Centre for Women’s Studies at the University of York. Alisson Phipps is widely recognized for her contributions to feminist theory, the study of sexual violence, racial capitalism, and institutional cultures. Among other works, Professor Phipps is the author of *Me, Not You: The Trouble with Mainstream Feminism*, a book published in 2020 by Manchester University Press.

Her forthcoming book is called *Sexual Violence in Racial Capitalism*, also with Manchester University Press, and the book’s main findings were the topic of her talk at UCD. Building on work by Fanon (1952), Davis (1981), Spivak (1988), Lugones (2007, 2008), Spillers (1987), and Segato (2016), the seminar explored the ways in which ideas about sexual danger are mobilised for strategic ends. The weaponisation of women’s rights has been discussed in previous scholarship: for instance, on colonial feminism (Ahmed 1992), imperial feminism (Amos and Parmar 1984), and femonationalism (Farris 2017, see also Bhattacharyya 2008). However, this has not explored the specific rhetorical and political economy attached to imputations of sexual violence, in which racialised ideas about sexuality and borders intertwine across scales from body to community to nation (Phipps 2025). As Professor Phipps argues, the coloniality of sexual violence blends sex exceptionalism (the idea that sexual violence is worse than other harms - see Gruber 2022) with sexual exceptionalism (the idea that sexual violence enters the national body from the ‘outside’ - see Puar 2007) in a variety of ways. In each blend, states of exception are created that allow populations to be vilified, geographically contained, economically excluded, expelled or even exterminated, apparently in the service of tackling sexual violence.



School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice



Professor Alison Phipps,
Honorary professor
Department of Sociology
University of York, UK

10th Anniversary

SCHOOL SEMINAR SERIES 2025-26

"The Coloniality of Sexual Violence"

<https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworksocialjustice/research/>

LOCATION
A201, UCD Hanna-Sheehy Building, Belfield Campus

DATE & TIME
Sept. 10th, 2025, 16:00 - 17:00

Registration details:



ABSTRACT
The lecture introduces a framework called the coloniality of sexual violence. Building on work by Fanon (1952), Davis (1981), Spivak (1988), Lugones (2007, 2008), Spillers (1987), and Segato (2016), this helps us understand more deeply how ideas about sexual danger are mobilised for strategic ends. The weaponisation of women's rights has been discussed in previous scholarship: for instance, on colonial feminism (Ahmed 1992), imperial feminism (Amos and Parmar 1984), and femonationalism (Farris 2017, see also Bhattacharyya 2008). However, this has not explored the specific rhetorical and political economy attached to imputations of sexual violence, in which racialised ideas about sexuality and borders intertwine across scales from body to community to nation (Phipps 2025). The coloniality of sexual violence blends sex exceptionalism (the idea that sexual violence is worse than other harms - see Gruber 2022) with sexual exceptionalism (the idea that sexual violence enters the national body from the 'outside' - see Puar 2007) in a variety of ways. In each blend, states of exception are created that allow populations to be vilified, geographically contained, economically excluded, expelled or even exterminated, apparently in the service of tackling sexual violence.

Contact details for more information: Dorota.Szelewna@ucd.ie

SCHOOL 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR SERIES, 2025-6

Seminars upcoming in September and October



Dr. Laura Garbes, Sociologist and Asst. Prof. at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, USA will give a talk “Book Talk: Listeners Like Who? Examining Public Radio’s White Racial Organization” on Sept. 16th at 1pm in Room D101, UCD Newman Building.

Abstract: Public radio in the United States has long been heralded as a space for inclusive storytelling and diverse perspectives. However, beneath its progressive ethos lies a structural whiteness that has shaped its institutional development, audience engagement, and sonic aesthetic. In *Listeners Like Who?*, Laura describes how public radio’s historical formation, donor reliance, and editorial practices have privileged white voices at the expense of marginalized communities. This talk will examine the early decisions that solidified public radio as a predominantly white institutional space, the structural factors that have influenced hiring practices, storytelling norms, and will consider the implications of these findings for media equity and what an antiracist public radio industry might sound like.

This seminar is organised by **Dr. Ieva Zumbyte**, Postdoctoral researcher on the Horizon Europe project (Transeuroworks) with Irish Principle Investigator **Dr. Dorota Szelewa**.



Dr. Iñigo Aldama Castaño, Postdoctoral Researcher, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona will give a talk “Out of Frame: Investigating Social Rights Access by Non-Private Household Sub-Groups in European Welfare Regimes” on Sept. 23rd at 1pm in Q115 UCD Quinn School of Business, Belfield Campus.

Abstract: Non-Private Household (NPH) sub-groups – for example those living in nursing homes, hospitals, homeless shelters, emergency accommodation or prisons– are highly dependent on welfare services, receiving considerable amounts of social policy energy, resources and attention. Paradoxically though, we know surprisingly little about their living conditions, transitions and, in turn, how policy design and implementation affect them. This empirical ‘blind spot’ stems from their consistent exclusion from the core population surveys that underpin research and policymaking. The study integrates and harmonizes survey, administrative, and national account data for the first time to uncover the living conditions and social rights access of NPHs. In doing so, it offers a new lens for evaluating the inclusiveness and equity of social citizenship in Europe.

This seminar is organised by **Dr. Matt Donoghue** who supervised Iñigo’s doctoral thesis in UCD.

SCHOOL SEMINAR SERIES 2025-26

SPEAKERS:
 John Hudson, Professor of Social Policy, University of York, UK (former Secretary of the Social Policy of UCD)
 Neil Lunt, Professor of Social Policy, University of York, UK

LOCATION
 A201 UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Hanna-Sheehy Skeffington Building, UCD, Belfield Campus, Dublin 4.

DATE & TIME
 Sept. 18, 2025
 13:00 - 14:00

ABSTRACT
 This seminar draws on a recent *Journal of Social Policy* article (<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279422000320>) by the presenters and explores the evolution of Social Policy as a subject in the UK over the past half century. The seminar will consider the challenges, opportunities, and interactions with other areas of social science research and teaching. It traces how these shaped the subject's evolution and academic presence. Taking an international perspective, the seminar also discusses the future directions for Social Policy teaching, study and research.

Registration details: Please email m.collins@ucd.ie to receive the Zoom link

Prof. John Hudson and Prof. Neil Lunt, both Professors of Social Policy, York University UK. “The Contested Jurisdiction of Social Policy in UK Universities since 1972: Reflections & Exploring International Implications” Sept. 18th 2025 @ 13:00 in Room A201, Hanna-Sheehy Skeffington Building, Belfield Campus, UCD.

Abstract: This seminar draws on a recent *Journal of Social Policy* article (<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279422000320>) by the presenters and explores the evolution of Social Policy as a subject in the UK over the past half century. The seminar will consider the challenges, opportunities, and interactions with other areas of social science research and teaching. It traces how these shaped the subject's evolution and academic presence. Taking an international perspective, the seminar also discusses the future directions for Social Policy teaching, study and research.

This seminar is organised by Dr. Micheál Collins, Asst. Prof. of Social Policy.

SCHOOL SEMINAR SERIES 2025-26

SPEAKER:
 Dr. Maria Theiss, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland

LOCATION
 Room L248, UCD Sutherland School of Law, Belfield Campus, Dublin 4.

DATE & TIME
 Oct. 14, 2025
 15:00 - 16:00

ABSTRACT
 This talk will focus on how people perceive distributive and procedural justice in direct encounters with social policy institutions. Using Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania as examples of highly hybrid welfare states, it will demonstrate how people apply justice norms and comparative standards to evaluate justice in contradictory and opaque situations. Findings from qualitative projects will be presented to demonstrate how users of social assistance and secondary healthcare in post-socialist countries evaluate the fairness of the system. These findings include those published in the article 'Welfare Users' Perceptions of Distributive Justice and Trust When Facing Institutional Enigma' (Theiss et al., *Social Policy and Society*, 2025).

For more information Please email Dorota.Szelewa@ucd.ie

Dr. Maria Theiss, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland. “Perceived justice in hybrid contexts: The case of post-socialist countries”. Oct. 14th 2025 @ 15:00 in Room Room L248, UCD Sutherland School of Law, Belfield Campus, Dublin 4.

Abstract: This talk will focus on how people perceive distributive and procedural justice in direct encounters with social policy institutions. Using Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania as examples of highly hybrid welfare states, it will demonstrate how people apply justice norms and comparative standards to evaluate justice in contradictory and opaque situations. Findings from qualitative projects will be presented to demonstrate how users of social assistance and secondary healthcare in post-socialist countries evaluate the fairness of the system. These findings include those published in the article 'Welfare Users' Perceptions of Distributive Justice and Trust When Facing Institutional Enigma' (Theiss et al., *Social Policy and Society*, 2025).

This seminar is organised by Dr. Dorota Szelewa, Asst. Prof. of Social Policy.

FUTURE RESEARCH EVENTS

Seminar: Caring for Robots (CARO) at the UCD Village (Meeting Room No.5), University College Dublin (UCD), 25-26 Sept., 2025



Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics into health and social care heralds a new era of innovation, promising streamlined work processes, and improved patient care. Robotics and AI can make positive contributions in policy and practice, dealing with the care deficit, empowerment of people with disabilities, vulnerable users, and an ageing population. However, this technological revolution is accompanied by intricate ethical implications that demand meticulous consideration. At these two half-day seminars, we will discuss the challenges, assets and pitfalls of care systems for the future. The focus of the seminar is to explore how ideas of good care reconfigure along with the use of robots and other advanced technology. We will not just discuss a good fit between technology and people but also elicit how this application brings controversies and influences values and practices. The presentations and discussion involve exploration of robots such as sensors and camera technologies with AI, medicine dispensers, social/communication/mobility robots, paying special attention to ethical implications. Controversies concerning care robots in healthcare often deal with privacy and the opacity of AI systems - issues that are difficult to address through the tenets of principlism. In contrast, we would like to develop a democratization perspective inspired by the care in practice approach (Mol, Moser & Pols, 2010) by conducting detailed empirical studies, engaging in the debate in healthcare practice, in the media, and in research. The seminar is organized by **Dr. Nao Kodate**, together with Profs. NCM Nickelsen and Thygesen (University of South-eastern Norway), in collaboration with the Geary Institute for Public Policy.

Presentations:

- “Autonomy as compassionate interference – assemblages of caring with robots” Hilde Thygesen, Professor, Dementia care, Care Practice, Ethics. Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, University of South-eastern Norway (USN)
- “Which caring values do AI promote and undermine in nursing homes - identifying four controversies from a next of kin perspective” Niels Christian Mossfeldt Nickelsen, Professor, Automatization of care, user involvement and learning. Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, USN
- “What virtues should a care robot possess? Some simulation experiments and human results” Vivek Nallur, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, UCD School of Computer Science
- "Towards Prescription Robotics in Dementia: Insights from Scientometric Analysis" Berk Zafer, Ph.D Candidate, NetwellCASALA Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT)
- “Assembling Sociality in Caring Spaces: Culturally Sensitive Robot Deployment During the Covid-19 Pandemic in Residential Care Homes in Ireland and Japan” **Yurie Maeda, Ph.D Student**, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice Department of Business Technologies Retail and Supply Chain, Technological University Dublin
- “Transfer robots, kaizen (quality improvement) and care work in an acute care hospital” **Naonori Kodate**, Associate Professor in Social Policy and Welfare Technology, and Director of Public Policy Programme, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice.

FUTURE RESEARCH EVENTS

New Research Report Launch: 'Be Strong: There's so many problems waiting: The experiences of separated children seeking international protection in Ireland'

A new research report - 'Be Strong: There's so many problems waiting: The experiences of separated children seeking international protection in Ireland' - will be jointly launched by EPIC (Empowering People in Care) and The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission on the 10th of October at IHREC. The research, commissioned by EPIC and funded by IHREC, is authored by **Dr. Muireann Ní Raghallaigh**, Dr. Joanne Kelleher and **Professor Prospera Tedam** and involved interviews with former separated children and with professionals working with this group.

Ireland - Japan Research Seminar: Caring Communities in Japan and Ireland: Collaboration, Engagement and Intergenerational relations for Realising Ageing in Place, Oct. 28, 2025 (10am - 4pm) in the UCD Village, Room 5.



Ireland-Japan Research Seminar
Caring Communities in Japan and Ireland:
Collaboration, engagement
and intergenerational relations
for realising Ageing in Place

Tuesday 28 October 2025
Time: 10:00-16:00(IST)
Venue: UCD Village Room 5
Everyone welcome!

Please register using this link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/rdwoNPxZiT>
or scan the QR code:

A seminar being organised by **Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate** as part of the Ireland - Japan Research Seminar Series is entitled Caring Communities in Japan and Ireland: Collaboration, Engagement and Intergenerational relations for Realising Ageing in Place. Supported by Chiba University, Japan, the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, Trinity College Dublin and Maynooth University, the seminar will take place on Tue. Oct. 28th between 10am and 4pm in the UCD Village, Room 5, Belfield Campus, Dublin 4.

Please register using this link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/rdwoNPxZiT>

For more information please email **Naonori.Kodate@ucd.ie**

CONFERENCE PAPERS

June 2025

- **Sepúlveda, G;** Arundel, R.; **Köppe, S:** Intergenerational transfers and housing inequality across Europe: a cross-sectional analysis of the gender and generations survey (GGs), ENHR New Housing Researchers Colloquium, 30 June 2025, France.

July 2025

- **Köppe, S;** Cevheribucak, G.; Callanan, M.: Innovation in a straitjacket – Dublin's social investment under restricted local autonomy, ESPAnet 2025, 27-29 August 2025, Milan.
- Arundel, R.; Köppe, S; Ronald, R.; **Sepúlveda, G.:** Intergenerational Housing Inequalities in Europe, ISA Forum of Sociology, 6-11 July 2025, Morocco.
- **Köppe, S.; Curran, M.; Aldama, I.:** How Large Families Fare in Germany: Examining Child Poverty Risks and Policy Solutions, ISA Forum of Sociology, 6-11 July 2025, Morocco
- **Curran, M.; Köppe, S.:** Large families: The forgotten poverty risk and poverty relevance, SPA Conference, 2-4 July 2025, York
- **Sepúlveda, G; Arundel, R.; Köppe, S;** Ronald, R.: Intergenerational housing and homeownership support across Europe: recent trends and inequalities, ENHR Conference, 1 – 4 July 2025, France.
- Yessengarayeva, G.; Fernández Herrera, S.; **Köppe, S;** R. Duque-Calvache, R.: The role of intergenerational housing support in shaping kinship relationships: a scoping review, ENHR Conference, 1 – 4 July 2025, France.
- **Sepúlveda, G;** Arundel, R.; **Köppe, S:** Intergenerational transfers and housing inequality across Europe: a cross-sectional analysis of the gender and generations survey (GGs), ENHR New Housing Researchers Colloquium, 30 June 2025, France.
- **Judy Walsh.** Workshop 5.6, Round Table: Visions for the Future of National Equality Laws with other participants Mark Bell (Chair), Esther Janssen, Alexandra Timmer and Karin de Vries. Annual conference of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law, hosted by the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-center-on-comparative-equality-anti-discrimination-law/our-annual-conference-programs/2025-ljubljana-conference/>
- **Orla Kelly** gave a presentation on working hours care and emissions at department of Sociology at Hong Kong University (HKU). She also participated in Global Political Economy workshop hosted by Singapore Management University (SMU). Participation in these events was supported by the SMU and the UCD Earth Institute Collaboration and Capacity-Building Award 2025.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

September

UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice faculty played an active role in this year's TISSA International Social Work & Society Academy, Universidade Lusófona - Centro Universitário Porto, Friday 29th August to Wednesday 3rd September. **Emeritus Professor Jim Campbell** participated in the PhD Pre-Conference event. **Associate Professor Sarah Donnelly** convened a symposium on Older People – Challenges and Opportunities for Gerontological Social Work which **Freda Quinlan, SPSWSJ PhD student** participated in and presented her pioneering work on 'Identifying filial coercive control as a human rights violation: Safeguarding social workers' perspectives on supporting older parents when their adult children strive to control their worlds'. The symposium brought together PhD students and academics from Georgia, Belgium and Ireland. It explored the importance of raising society's awareness of older people's human rights, structural and systemic ageism and the challenges and opportunities for gerontological social work. **Emeritus Professor Jim Campbell** also presented on 'Social work and political violence: reflections on three seminars held in Nicosia, Belfast and Sarajevo' with Professor Vasilios Ioakimidis, University of West Attica. Finally, **Associate Professor Sarah Donnelly** had the opportunity to present on behalf of the Five Nations 'Carer Harm' working group. Her presentation was entitled 'Hidden Harm: Utilising the Ethics of Care for Theory Development'. Over the last two years, academics across the five nations of the British Isles, have been exploring ways to develop our theoretical and conceptual understanding of Hidden Harm in the Context of Family Caring. This paper reported on a policy analysis of five countries using the Trace methodology.

The UCO Centre for War Studies and the Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies are pleased to co-host a one-day symposium to take place in Helsinki on Friday, 19th September, 2025. The symposium will focus on the (comparative) history of "post- civil-war societies", bringing together panels on themes such as "cultural demobilisation", "memory", "transitional justice" and "exile". The symposium is part of "The Age of Civil Wars in Europe, c. 1914- 1949" ERC Advanced Grant Project (2022- 2027, www.civil-wars.eu), led by Prof. Robert Gerwarth "Post-Civil-War Societies" symposium to be held in the Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies, September 2025.

Panel Title: 'Activist women during and after civil wars'.

Recovered experiences, contested memories and the silences that remain: capturing lived experiences of activist European (Irish and Hungarian) women in the wake of revolution, civil war and conflict

This panel was proposed by members of the Afterlives Project, on which **Dr. Mary McAuliffe** is one of the UCD representatives.

The Symposium is co-organised by the UCD Centre for War Studies under the ERC Advanced Grant, 'The Age of Civil Wars in Europe, 1914-1949', led by Professor Robert Gerwarth.

https://civil-wars.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/250512_Helsinki_04.pdf

CONFERENCE

ESPAnet, University of Milan, 27-29th August 2025



The photo depicts Dorota Szelewa and Stephan Köppe as they met their fellows of the International Network on Leave Policies and Research (LP&R).

Nine colleagues have chaired sessions and presented papers at the ESPAnet Conference 2025.

Stephan Köppe co-chaired Stream 30: Navigating Gender, Identity, and Care: Policies and Politics in European Welfare Systems and the following papers were presented at the University of Milan.

Gender, class and the recent reforms of work-life balance policies in Ireland

Ieva Zumbyte University College Dublin

Dorota Szelewa University College Dublin

Social Investment in Childcare: Exploring the Role of Education, Income and Public Expenditure on User Satisfaction

Ausra Cizauskaite University College Dublin

Karen Anderson University College Dublin

Micheál Collins University College Dublin

Resilience, inequalities and CO2 emissions: towards a just transition in the residential and transport sectors in Ireland?

Nessa Winston University College Dublin

Monika Pedroso University College Dublin

Ciaran MacDomhnaill University College Dublin

Enhancing resilience in older adult populations: addressing the multiple faces of energy and transport poverty in Ireland

Orla Dingley University College Dublin

Innovation in a straitjacket – Dublin's social investment under restricted local autonomy

Stephan Köppe University College Dublin

Gülfem Cevheribucak University of Limerick

Mark Callanan Institute of Public Administration, Dublin

CONFERENCE

European Sociological Association - Conference of the Research Network on Sociology of Social Policy and Social Welfare (RN26). “Harnessing Sociological Imagination and Theory in the Study of Social Policy and Welfare”. September 19-20, 2025, at Ulster University, Belfast.

“Tackling social isolation of older adults through welfare technology: Policy lessons from Japan”

Abstract: This paper presents preliminary data analysis examining community-based responses to social isolation among older people in Japan, viewed through a sociotechnical systems lens. Building on O'Shea et al.'s work (2012) on social exclusion in rural Ireland, and O'Sullivan et al.'s research (2022) on agency and ageing, the research uses a case study approach to compare two contrasting municipalities (Kimotsuki: rural, agricultural; and Kita-Kyushu: urban, manufacturing, government-designated special district). Policy initiatives identified from grey literature were examined to assess welfare technologies introduced and their impacts on older people's lives and care. Additional fact-finding interviews were conducted. The study is conducted as part of a PhD project.



This photo depicts Yurie Maeda (PhD Student, Public Policy) who is being supervised by Dr. Naonori Kodate

Applying sociotechnical systems theory, this study seeks to analyse the interplay between social structures, technological interventions as sociological imaginaries, and policy frameworks shaping ageing-in-place. Kimotsuki prioritises digital literacy using fibre optics and mutual aid networks to increase social connectedness among older residents, while Kita-Kyushu focuses on advanced care technologies like care robots and health information systems to address caregiver shortages and improve service delivery. The analysis demonstrates various efforts and processes to align technology with existing social practices, organisational structures and community values. While Kita-Kyushu prioritised infrastructure necessary for ageing-in-place, Kimotsuki aimed to increase the number of early adoptions of welfare technologies.

The findings highlight the importance of considering the interrelationships between technology and society when designing social policies. It argues for a collaborative approach that integrates technological solutions with community engagement strategies to promote aging-in-place solutions that are both effective and socially sustainable.



Dr Marie Moran,
Assoc. Prof. of Social
Justice
UCD School of Social
Policy, Social Work and
Social Justice

Director of Equality
Studies Centre

Email:
Marie.Moran@ucd.ie

EQUALITY STUDIES CENTRE NEWS

Dear members and friends of the Equality Studies Centre,

After six years, Dr. Marie Moran's tenure as director of the Equality Studies Centre has finished, and as part of a school rotation of roles she is stepping down from this position, and will take up a role on the school executive committee instead.

Marie wishes to take the opportunity to pick out a few highlights over the last few years, to thank a number of people, and to introduce our new director, Judy Walsh.

First, some highlights:

- The Critical Political Economy reading group and seminar series, which became the Dublin CPE network. Co-led by Marie, Vincenzo Maccaronne and then Adam Kelly, this has been a really engaging and inspiring series of meetings over the years, including all throughout Covid, where members discussed key texts, helped each other with papers and projects, and enjoyed the occasional social event. Thanks to all the participants and leaders!
- The development of a collaborative seminar series on equality theory with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), led by Dr. Karen Smith, as part of the Unequal Societies research cluster. This was a wonderful success, and thanks to all the contributors!
- The Equality Studies Annual Public Lecture each year has attracted colleagues, alumni and friends of the Centre to hear from leading figures in the world of equality Studies, including Mike Savage, Richard Seymour, Alison Phipps, Andrew Sayer, Jo Littler and Alana Lentin. All these lectures can still be viewed on our website, by the way - www.ucd.ie/esc
- The seminar series has also hosted Baliher Sanghera, The Care Collective, Maya Goodfellow, Lousie Richardson-Self among many others - including a number of activists and writers who presented on their ongoing efforts to achieve change. These have been wonderful and inspiring events, and many thanks to anyone who participated. A very special thanks to Ruben Flores, UCD Sociology, who played a huge role in organising these events and other activities associated with the Equality and Flourishing Research Cluster.
- Collaboration with the UCD Human Rights Centre has been another highlight - along with various events co-organised with Marie-Luce Paris, it has been fantastic working with Sara Benedi Lahuerta, Liam Thornton and Judy Walsh on the Equality, Human Right and Anti-Discrimination cluster. Particularly memorable was the cross-university event on the Gender Pay Gap, led by Sara - thank you!

EQUALITY STUDIES CENTRE NEWS

Director of Equality
Studies Centre

Email: Marie.Moran@ucd.ie



New Director of Equality
Studies Centre

Email: Judy.Walsh@ucd.ie

- The ESC also contributed to the design and production of the 'Futures Thinking' conference and seminar series, led by Donncha Kavanagh. This was a wonderful two-day event that brought together 7 university research centres and Institutes with academics from multiple disciplines, a wide range of national and international policymakers, innovators, and industry and government advisors.
- The ESC was also a founding member of the 'All-Island Political Theory Seminar Series', along with 7 other research centres or schools across 6 universities, originally initiated during Covid to keep the political theory community in contact. This evolved in a very enjoyable and still ongoing forum for the exchange of ideas among political theorists in Ireland.
- The ESC hosted a large number of visiting scholars and students during this period, many of whom contributed to the seminar series, and were housed in Geary for their stay. While some were PhD students, and others were Erasmus+ scholars and visiting researchers, all brought a vibrant international dimension to the activities of the Centre, coming from Finland, Italy, The US, Honduras, the UK, Spain and Australia. Thanks to all who met with these scholars during their visits - it really enhanced their stay
- Most recently, the Equality Studies Brown Bag lunchtime series was a great success, bringing together members across the university who wanted to discuss and get feedback on their work on in/equality. This really built a great community of equality-focused scholars at UCD, that hopefully will continue to grow!

New ESC director:

- The incoming Equality Studies Centre director, Judy Walsh is well known to Centre participants, including as previous director. Judy is the current co-convenor of the Centre's research cluster on Equality, Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination, member of the local advisory board, and an established scholar in the field of Equality Studies. She is the co-author of two highly cited texts on egalitarian theory, while her monograph on Irish anti-discrimination law has been cited by the Irish Supreme Court and is referenced regularly in decisions of the Workplace Relations Commission. From 2017, she has acted as the national expert for Ireland on the European Equality Law Network, which advises the European Commission on implementation of European Union equality law at domestic level. Judy has contributed extensively to shaping and advancing the university's EDI agenda, through active participation in several committees across two decades.

We all join Marie in welcoming Judy as new director of the Equality Studies Centre.

Dr. Marie Moran
ESC outgoing Director

CENTRE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

JSPS-funded Seminar on 'Caring Communities': UCD & Chiba University research collaborations since 2016

JSPS London-funded Seminar will be held in UCD, in collaboration with TCD/Carnew Community Centre, Co. Wicklow this autumn. In advance of this visit, the delegation from Japan met with H.E. Mr Damien Cole (Ambassador of Ireland to Japan) at the Ireland House.



Dr Naonori Kodate,
Assoc. Prof. of Social Policy,
UCD School of Social Policy,
Social Work and Social
Justice

Founding Director of
Centre for Japanese
Studies

Email:
Naonori.Kodate@ucd.ie



Interdisciplinary research collaboration between UCD and Chiba University traces back to the signing of MoU in November 2016, when Prof. Wenwei Yu (Center for Frontier Medical Engineering, Chiba University) and Prof. Sayuri Suwa (Graduate School of Nursing, Chiba University) came and visited UCD on the ISCA-Japan funding, as part of the 60th Anniversary of Ireland-Japan diplomatic relations.

(<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/drnaonorikodateappointedasadjunctresearchprofessorcenterforfrontiermedicalengineering.chibauniversityjapan/>).

Since then, **Assoc. Prof. Kodate** co-led several spin-off research projects with Chiba University (CU) colleagues. One of these collaborative projects is about Caring Communities (led by Prof. Mina Ishimaru, Graduate School of Nursing, CU), involving researchers, medical professionals and older people in Montreal, Canada and Higashi-Chiba, Japan.

(<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/chibauniversity-universityofmontrealucdjointprojectoncaringcommunitiesofficiallylaunchedwithpublicseminarincanada/>)

To further strengthen research capacity and partnership, Prof. Ishimaru and **Assoc. Prof. Kodate** teamed up with Dr Catherine Elliott O'Dare (School of Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin), and successfully secured research funding from the JSPS London (Japan Society of the Promotion of Science, Japanese equivalent of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland) this year. A two-day seminar and site visit will take place on the 28th and the 29th of October at UCD and the Carnew Community Centre, County Wicklow.

<https://carnewcommunitycare.ie/>

The purpose of the funding scheme is partly to nurture and support early-career researchers in Japan and the UK/Ireland-based research institutes. This time, two early-career researchers (both scholars in Nursing) will visit Ireland from Chiba University and Gunma University – both national universities located in the Greater Tokyo area.

Prior to the Japanese delegation's visit, H.E. Mr Damien Cole (Ambassador of Ireland to Japan) invited them to the newly opened Ireland House, Yotsuya, Tokyo. The extended research group of Prof. Ishimaru together with Community Leader (Wa-Wa-Wa-no-kai), Ms Sanae Murai, attended the meeting and exchanged views and research findings regarding long-term care, ageing policy, and caring communities in Japan and Ireland.

Ambassador Cole's warm welcome and tour of the brand-new building and facilities of Ireland House made a great impression on the delegation, and they all look forward to their visit this autumn, continuing to build the two countries' partnership through research and education.

Our deepest gratitude to Ambassador Cole and the staff at the Irish Embassy in Japan.

For those interested in taking part in the seminar event on the 28th of October, please contact: Dr Naonori Kodate (naonori.kodate@ucd.ie)

Naonori Kodate

Centre for Japanese Studies Director.



(Left to right: Dr Kodate, Mrs Murai, Prof. Ishimaru, Dr Hotta, Dr Sato)

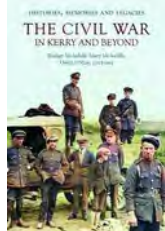
PUBLICATIONS

Edited Book



Köppe, S., Parma, A., & Sojka, B. (Eds.). (2025). Social Policy Review 37. Analysis and Debate in Social Policy, 2025. Policy Press. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51952/9781447377245>.

Edited Book



McAuliffe, M., McAuliffe, B., & O'Shea, O. (Eds.) (2025). The Civil War in Kerry and Beyond Histories, memories and legacies. Dublin: Four Courts. Retrieved from <https://www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2025/the-civil-war-in-kerry-and-beyond/contents>.

Report



Walsh, Judy (2025) Country Report Non-Discrimination: Ireland 2025, Publications Office of the European Union. Access the full report [here](#).

Abstract: This report assesses how European Union law governing discrimination in the fields of employment, education, housing, and access to goods and services, is implemented in Ireland. Across twelve chapters it considers various dimensions of the law in practice including how discrimination is defined, the scope of the Employment Equality Acts and the Equal Status Acts, and enforcement mechanisms. It also highlights recent legislative and policy developments, concluding with a summary of the main discrimination cases decided in 2024.

An infographic is available here: <https://www.migpolgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Ireland-ND-country-report-highlights-2025-.pdf>

Book Chapter

McAuliffe, M. (2025). She Was in her Night Attire. In C. Harper (Ed.), The Stained and Bloodied Cloths of Ireland A Material Culture View of Irish Shame, Oppression, Morality and Repression. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Book Chapter

McAuliffe, M. (2025). 'Failing to get men, they are now filling the Kerry gaols with women'; imprisonment of militant anti-treaty Kerry women in during the civil war. In M. McAuliffe et al (Ed.), The Civil War in Kerry and Beyond; Histories, memories and legacies. Dublin: Four Courts Press. Retrieved from <https://www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2025/the-civil-war-in-kerry-and-beyond/contents>

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapter

McAuliffe, M. (2025). 'Violence and indiscipline'? The Treatment of Militant Anti-Treaty Women by the National Army during the Irish Civil War, 1922-1923'. In F. J. Leira-Castiñeira, & J. Sakkas (Eds.), 'Patterns of Violence Behind the Lines in Europe's Civil War. London: Palgrave MacMillian.

Book Chapter

McAuliffe, M. (2025). 'St Ultan's Hospital for Sick Infants; Drs Kathleen Lynn, Elizabeth Tennant, Katherine Maguire, Ella Webb, and Dorothy Stopford Price'. In N. Eiden, & M. Robert (Eds.), Women in Health Management: Global Revolutionaries. London: Routledge. Retrieved from <https://www.routledge.com/Women-in-Health-Management-Global-Revolutionaries/McMurray-NiShe/p/book/9781032898254>

Book Review

Sepúlveda-Vásquez, G. (2025). Political Economy of Housing in Chile: by Francisco Vergara-Perucich, Carlos Aguirre-Nuñez, Felipe Encinas, Rodrigo Hidalgo-Dattwyler, Ricardo Truffello, and Felipe Ladrón de Guevara, London, Routledge, 2024, 120 pp., £19.99 (pbk), ISBN 9781032391823. Housing Studies, 1-3. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2025.2549751>

Journal Article

Mina Ishimaru, **Naonori Kodate**, Sanae Murai, Ghislaine Rouly, Antoine Boivin. Unlocking the Paradox of Intercultural Collaboration in Integrated Community Care: An Interpersonal Dialogue. International Journal of Integrated Care
[DOI: 10.5334/ijic.8596](https://doi.org/10.5334/ijic.8596)

Abstract

Introduction: Intercultural collaboration in integrated community care faces a paradox. Some view community care as a 'local craft', intimately embedded within its socio-cultural context, and therefore it cannot be exported. Others view it as 'interventions' that are transferable and scalable, like other health innovations. This article proposes a middle-ground approach, highlighting the role of interpersonal relationships as a foundation for intercultural collaboration in integrated community care.

Description: Over a five-year period, we pursued an intercultural collaboration between two integrated community care initiatives in Canada and Japan. Both initiatives are grounded in the principles of community empowerment, linkages across health and social care, and complementarity of lived experience and professional knowledge. Our collaboration evolved in three interrelated phases: 1) intercultural discovery and exploration; 2) intercultural relationship-building and strengthening; and 3) intercultural explicitation and influence.

Discussion: While the implementation science literature largely focuses on cognitive processes of knowledge exchange, our experience highlights deeper relational dimensions that are essential to intercultural learning and impact across community care initiatives, including socialisation among collaborators, beyond their professional roles and identities.

Conclusion: Relational and socialisation processes should be recognised, nurtured and valued as integral components of intercultural collaborative efforts in integrated community care. Knowledge gained from this experience can inform cross-cultural efforts to support the global integrated community care movement.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article

Kodate N. & Kodate T. By choice or by design? Changing landscape of higher education in Japan and views of STEM students at a women's university. *Asia Pacific Journal of Education*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02188791.2025.2527633>.

ABSTRACT

A traditionally strong presence of women's universities in Japan has now been seriously challenged owing to the decline in the university-age population. Despite a plethora of initiatives to promote women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), the underrepresentation of women still remains an issue. With the rise of equality, diversity and inclusion concepts, what does it mean to study STEM at women's university from the student's perspective? This article reports the changing landscape of higher education institutions in Japan and the results of questionnaire surveys conducted in 2012 and 2023 among STEM students at a women's university. The study found that although more respondents from the recent cohort identified co-educational institutions as their first choice, those who were unsure of a STEM specialization before admission selected women's universities and private co-ed institutions over public co-educational universities. The findings also suggest that many recognise their selected women-only environment as a place that offers an unusually good preparation for future careers within a society that retains gender stereotypes. In addition, it indicates that many of the respondents are first-generation STEM students, breaking the mould of their family environment.

Journal Article

Che R-P, Ruan Y-X, **Kodate N**, Shi Y, Liu X, **Donnelly S**, Suwa S, Yu W, Kong D, Cheung M-C.
Effectiveness and usability of care robots in supporting older adults living with frailty: A systematic review.
DIGITAL HEALTH
[doi:10.1177/20552076251370058](https://doi.org/10.1177/20552076251370058)

Abstract

Objective: Frailty is one of the most problematic expressions of aging and causes older adults to require more assistance in daily life. Care robots have been proposed as a potential solution to bridge the widening gap between the demand and supply of healthcare services. This review aims to evaluate the effectiveness and usability of care robots in supporting older adults living with frailty.

Methods: A systematic review was conducted, including peer-reviewed articles published in English from January 2000 to April 2025. A quality assessment was performed on the included studies, and the results were summarized narratively.

Results: Of the nine studies reviewed, five examined the impact of care robots on physical frailty. Three of these studies reported positive outcomes, while two found no significant effects on physical frailty. The impact of care robots on psychological frailty was assessed in four studies, but no significant effects were found. Regarding usability, the perceived usability of care robots among frail older adults was generally low, primarily due to technical limitations. Usability also varied depending on the specific contexts in which the robots were deployed.

Conclusions: Care robots have the potential to improve physical frailty in older adults, although their impact on psychological and social frailty remains limited. Usability challenges persist, underscoring the need for further refinement in robot design, user experience, and contextual factors to enhance their effectiveness and usability for this population.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article

Fan, W., Schor, J.B., **Kelly, O.** et al. Work time reduction via a 4-day workweek finds improvements in workers' well-being. *Nature Human Behaviour* (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-025-02259-6>

Abstract

Time spent on the job is a fundamental aspect of working conditions that influences many facets of individuals' lives. Here we study how an organization-wide 4-day workweek intervention—with no reduction in pay—affects workers' well-being. Organizations undergo pre-trial work reorganization to improve efficiency and collaboration, followed by a 6-month trial. Analysis of pre- and post-trial data from 2,896 employees across 141 organizations in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the UK and the USA shows improvements in burnout, job satisfaction, mental health and physical health—a pattern not observed in 12 control companies. Both company-level and individual-level reductions in hours are correlated with well-being gains, with larger individual-level (but not company-level) reductions associated with greater improvements in well-being. Three key factors mediate the relationship: improved self-reported work ability, reduced sleep problems and decreased fatigue. The results indicate that income-preserving 4-day workweeks are an effective organizational intervention for enhancing workers' well-being.

Journal Article

Donger, E., Bhatia, A., Pegram, J. and **Kelly, O.** Inclusion of children and youth in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Reports (AR1-AR6). *Nat Commun* 16, 6159 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-60266-7>

Abstract

Climate change disproportionately impacts the health and wellbeing of children and youth, who are often excluded from climate policy, legislation, and finance frameworks. This article quantifies how frequently children and youth are referenced in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports (AR1-AR6) and analyses related evidence in AR6. We find references to children and youth in the IPCC reports increased substantially in AR6. The frequency of references varies considerably across Working Group (WG) reports and chapters, with most references appearing in two WG II chapters: 'Health and Wellbeing', and 'Africa'. The vast majority of content on children pertains to climate risks; most commonly to physical health, with few references to other key risks including education, migration and violence. Conversely, the majority of references to youth relate to climate responses, highlighting research on climate activism more often than risks to youth or evidence on procedural inclusion. Relatedly, children are commonly framed as vulnerable and youth as climate activists. This framing obscures the intersectional, complex needs and capabilities of children and youth. To enhance the comprehensiveness of future IPCC reports, there is a critical need for funding and inclusion of more research on climate change, children and youth.



FEATURED RESEARCHER

Dr. Marie Moran, Assoc. Prof. in Social Justice, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

- **How did you come to select your chosen area of research?**

I have always been very attracted to theory – social, political and cultural theory – and very much enjoy the practice of using theory to find patterns, explanations and to make sense of the otherwise inexplicable. Jim McGuigan, who was the extern for my PhD, once commented that I should have been a mathematician rather than a social theorist, so taken was I was structure, logic and ‘working out puzzles’! And in a way, that captures some of its attraction for me – I love the rigor and clarity of theory, and how it enables us to use concepts as tools for insight and understanding.

I have always also been motivated by the critique of inequality. From a young age I have felt really perturbed by various social injustices – of social class, gender, race and disability – though of course, I did not have the language to capture and critique these injustices until I came to university and found feminism, Marxism and critical theory. My area of research, then, is really the critique and analysis of different forms of inequality, using social, political and cultural theory. Even as I have examined very different topics in my research – the idea of identity in capitalist societies, varieties of anti-elitism, cultural populism, financial elites, and the ‘student experience’ – in each case I have used the tools of social theory from an egalitarian perspective.

- **Are there any key theories, methodologies, or paradigms that guide your research?**

I have been very taken by ‘cultural materialism’ as it was developed by Marxist cultural theorist, Raymond Williams. Williams observed that certain ‘keywords’ were bound up with the problems they were used to discuss; and that language, generally, does not simply reflect but is an active part of social change. Writing before the postmodern obsession with the constructive power of the text, Williams’s work, like the broader field of (materialist) cultural studies which he formed part of, provided new and illuminating ways of thinking about the productive power of ideologies, and their capacity to shape and legitimise unequal social relations. But these theorists also saw people as actors with the capacity to work collectively to change their worlds – including through the language and ideas they used. I have found this is a very fruitful way of approaching key social issues, and of thinking about how different ideas can take hold of the collective imagination, legitimising certain interests and undermining others; and also of thinking about how we can collectively re-imagine different ways of organising social life. This ‘cultural materialist’ approach was central to my first book *Identity and Capitalism* (Sage, 2015), and is also deployed in my forthcoming book *No Kings: Elites and Left Politics* (Verso, 2026), where, amongst other things, I examine the profound ideological power of the idea of elites. I also published on cultural materialism as a method in my article ‘Keywords as Method’ (*European Jnl of Cultural Studies*, 2021).

- **Can you describe what the process of writing your most recent book was like.**

It was tough-going! I began thinking about the ideological work carried out by the idea of an elite around about the time Donald Trump was first elected US president. I was puzzled by how he came to power on an 'anti-elitist' ticket, while nonetheless exhibiting most of the qualities generally understood to characterise an 'elite' himself. But as I plugged away at this interesting puzzle, I found I had to go way back – to the history, origins and evolution of the word 'elite', to tracing (what I eventually parsed as) different varieties of anti-elitism across emancipatory and reactionary social movements, right up to the contemporary debates around 'liberal elites', the 'white working class and more. What was a short commentary on contemporary discourse had become something much larger – a historical excavation of ideas around elites and anti-elitism, that would provide a counterpart to the enormous work being carried out on histories of 'the people' and populism. Verso signed the book in 2021, but with the Pandemic lockdowns, a small child at home, and then a subsequent pregnancy and maternity leave, work on the book moved very slowly. When I returned post maternity leave, I felt like I had an enormous mess of a puzzle on my plate – any time I pulled one string, the whole project unravelled. But I learned to treat writing like gardening – do some work every day, even if it is just weeding, addressing a small patch of grass or whatever – and over time a well-kept garden will emerge. Plugging away, day after day, refusing to become overwhelmed, and always finishing a day's work knowing what I had to do next, I gradually chipped away at the puzzle – until finally, last May, a manuscript emerged and I submitted it to

- **Overall what do you find most interesting about your area of research?**

At a micro-level, I am absolutely fascinated by the history of words, and what excavation of particular keywords can reveal about their current (often ideological) uses. For example, the word 'class' already contains within it a suggestion of hierarchy or distinction, and of an enclosed group. This is what stands out to me when we talk about 'social class', therefore. And even if this usage is not intentional on the part of the speaker, this is part of the ideological work performed by the idea of class. At a more macro level, I am very interested in how certain ideas – 'elites', 'identity' – become at once commonplace and absolutely central to political debate. I am interested in what these ideas, and the politics that coalesce around them, enable and also challenge. I feel very lucky to be able to spend part of my working week thinking and writing about these big social questions, particularly from a perspective concerned with the critique of inequality and the search for egalitarian alternatives.

- **What is next for you? What projects are you working on now?**

I am currently working on a book entitled 'Equality Today: A Conceptual Toolkit for Social Scientists and Activists', which is under contract with Polity. In it I hope to bring the rigor and clarity from the (sometimes obscure) political theory of equality to bear on work currently being done in the social sciences and in various social movements on questions of in/equality. It is an interdisciplinary project, that I hope will offer a valuable resource to researchers and activists in time.



Contact the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice:

Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

T: [+353 1 716 8198](tel:+35317168198) | E: sp-sw-sj@ucd.ie

<https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/research/>

